

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

27-Sep-1995 09:01am

TO: Carol H. Rasco  
FROM: Jeremy D. Benami  
Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: Choice issue in Foreign Ops bill

The State Dept called late last night about an issue in the Foreign Ops Appropriations bill - relating to the reversal of the Mexico City executive order re funding for intl family planning orgs that provide abortion services with other money. The reversal of the Bush policy was one of the early EOs we signed.

The House (Chris Smith) included a provision in the bill overturning the EO. The Senate did not. The Senate actually has statutory language that supports the EO. This difference could be the single issue remaining in the conference. State wanted guidance as to how hard to push back on this - i.e., veto line or no.

I spoke to Leg Affairs late last night and to State. I understand this came up at 7:30 and I raised it at 8:15. The instruction I derived from Leon was that State should send a very strong signal that we are committed to this policy. George told me after that he thought maybe a meeting with you, Pat, him, Nancy Ann and me might be a good idea - just 15 minutes to go over this. I personally would add people from the State Dept who know the exact language at issue!

I have asked State exactly what the timing of this is. If it will be moot by noon, then there's no need to meet. If this may drag for a day or two, I will let you know.

Thanks.

E X E C U T I V E   O F F I C E   O F   T H E   P R E S I D E N T

27-Sep-1995 10:18am

TO: Carol H. Rasco  
FROM: Jeremy D. Benami  
Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: Mexico City and Foreign Ops

Spoke again to the State Dept.

The Conference is not happening today on Foreign Ops. It may not happen this week now, but then again it may. There will be pressure to move this bill sooner than later because it contains aid to Israel and Egypt.

State does need to know specifically whether they can say that the administration would veto the bill over this provision. They have made clear our strongest possible opposition short of that, but it will obviously strengthen negotiating positions if they can use the veto threat.

My recommendation is that we find 15 minutes with George and Pat and maybe Alice or Nancy Ann today or tomorrow to come to consensus on the question OR that we get a clear yes or no on that question from the 7:30 tomorrow.

Let me know what you decide.